

air pollution. At the conclusion of the Trail Smelter Arbitration, in which Canada had previously accepted liability for damage caused in the State of Washington by fumes from a smelter in British Columbia, the Arbitral Tribunal stated that "no state has the right to permit the use of its territory in such a manner as to cause injury by fumes in or to the territory of another or the properties of persons therein...".

I am certain that all responsible Americans accept that the rule of law should guide their relations with other countries as well as their internal activities. I am also certain that responsible Americans recognize that our mutual obligations must be met by dealing with the causes of acid rain to prevent further damage rather than concentrating on remedies for damage after it has occurred.

For our part, we accept the fact that there will have to be a more focused concentration on the problem of acid rain in both countries, necessitating heightened awareness and sensitivity to the damage associated with it.

One such mechanism is conferences such as this, in which skilled and informed specialists, legislators and others can elucidate our difficulties and focus on avenues for problem resolution. In that connection, I want to again express my thanks to the organizers of this conference for making it possible for the participants here to develop a perspective which is vital to comprehension of this very complex problem and to developing the kind of thrust which is essential to moving towards concrete action. It is an action that is in the finest tradition of our two countries and one that offers to Canadians the ray of hope we need to press on with our neighbours in overcoming one of the most serious environmental problems we share on this continent.

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